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Creative industries and regional economic development in Indonesia

Meaning, patterns and impacts

Fikri Zul Fahmi

1. Although creative industries, in the sense of economic activities that focus on individual creativity and new knowledge creation, are to be found in Indonesia, they are still a 'luxury good' and are, as yet, unlikely to drive regional economic growth (this thesis).
2. Contrary to what the central government in Indonesia has sought to achieve, the findings of this research suggest that not all regions should promote or set out to attract creative industries (this thesis).
3. Given their growth, the regional economic contributions of creative industries are likely to increase in the future. As such, promoting these industries is a feasible strategy for regional development, but this should be tailored to place-specific characteristics (this thesis).
4. The notion of cultural industries in the developed world is mostly associated with cultural consumption and amenities in urban contexts. This does not reflect the long-established and pervasive nature of traditional craft-based businesses in Indonesia, and perhaps in developing countries in general, which also have potential and face challenges in rural regions (this thesis).
5. Although the distinction between creative industries and traditional cultural industries is clear conceptually, it is not easy to establish the border between the two empirically (this thesis).
6. Although traditional cultural industries might not focus on innovation and new knowledge, they are large in terms of the number of firms and employment in Indonesia. As such, they make important contributions to the economy and should not be overlooked (this thesis).
7. To generate innovative values, creative industries need to cross-fertilise ideas and skills (this thesis). Research is not dissimilar: sharing research with peers is important for gaining different perspectives on approaching and resolving problems.
8. 'The myth of the isolated creative genius is usually just that: a myth' (Power, 2003, p. 178)
9. '*Sebuah sangkar besi tidak bisa mengubah rajawali menjadi seekor burung nuri*' (WS Rendra) (translation: an iron cage will not change an eagle into a parrot)
10. Living in the Netherlands teaches you to be creative and to multitask, for instance, cycling while texting or carrying a large piece of luggage – and now, more importantly, while playing Pokémon Go.
11. 'In the creation of the heavens and the earth and in the alternation of night and day, there are indeed signs for people of understanding' (Al Baqarah 2:190)